

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1 ¹ 1. In a system adapted for monitoring for changes in condition of one or more
2 electronic certificates, and adapted for communication with a user of the one or more
3 electronic certificates, a method for notification of a change in condition of an electronic
4 certificate, comprising:
5 detecting a change in condition of the electronic certificate; and
6 notifying the user of the electronic certificate of the change in condition.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user is a certificate user of the electronic
2 certificate.

1 ² 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising allowing the certificate user to download
2 an updated version of the electronic certificate.

1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising forwarding an updated electronic
2 certificate to the certificate user concurrently with the step of notifying, thereby updating
3 the electronic certificate.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein step of notifying comprises notifying the certificate
2 user by electronic mail.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein step of notifying comprises notifying the certificate
2 user by telephone using an electronic voice messaging system.

1 7. The method of claim 2, wherein step of notifying comprises notifying the certificate
2 user by providing a paging signal to a pager for the recipient.

1 8. The method of claim 2, comprising negotiating a contract with the certificate user
2 regarding the type of change the certificate user is notified of in the step of notifying,
3 negotiating the way of notifying the certificate user, negotiating the diligence with which
4 the certificate user is notified of the change in condition, and negotiating a price for
5 notifying the certificate user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the change in condition detected in the detecting
2 step consists of a change in condition selected from the following group: revocation of,
3 roll-over of, change in field of, disablement of, or expiration of the electronic certificate.

1 10. A system for notification of a change in condition for an electronic certificate has
2 changed, comprising:

3 a processor;

4 a computer program executable on the processor;

5 a first executable module in the computer program for detecting a change in
6 condition of an electronic certificate; and

7 a second executable module in the computer program for notifying a user of the
8 electronic certificate of the change in condition.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the electronic certificate is stored on a first server.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the first server further comprises the processor on
2 which the computer program is stored and the first and second executable modules are
3 executed.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor comprises a second server, wherein
2 the first executable module is stored and executed on the first server, and wherein the
3 second executable module is stored and executed on the second server.

1 14. The system of claim 13, comprising an communication channel between the first
2 and second servers for connecting the first server to the second server such that data
3 communications may occur between the first and second servers.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the electrical connection comprises a network,
2 said first and second servers each having a network interface for data communications in
3 said network.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the first server comprises a certificate server.

1 17. The system of claim 10, wherein the user of the electronic certificate comprises a
2 certificate user of the electronic certificate.

1 18. The system of claim 17, comprising a third module in the computer program for
2 negotiating a contract with the certificate user regarding the type of change the second
3 module notifies the certificate user of, for negotiating the way the second module notifies
4 the certificate user, for negotiating the diligence used for notifying the certificate user of the
5 change in condition, and for negotiating a price for notifying the certificate user.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the processor is further for forwarding an updated
2 electronic certificate to the certificate user, thereby updating the electronic certificate with
3 respect to the certificate user.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the processor is further for allowing the certificate
2 user to download an updated version of the electronic certificate from a certificate server.

1 21. The system of claim 18, comprising a plurality of electronic certificates, wherein the
2 electronic certificate for which the processor detects a change in condition comprises one
3 of the plurality of electronic certificates.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first module is for detecting a change in
2 condition of one or more of the plurality of electronic certificates, and the second module

3 is for notifying one or more respective certificate users of the change in condition of the
4 respective electronic certificate based on the contract negotiated by the third module.

23. The system of claim 1, wherein the change in condition detected by the first module consists of a change in condition selected from the following group: revocation of, roll-over of, change in field of, disablement of, or expiration of the electronic certificate.

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